

Parish Footpath Officers Report June 2024

1. After contacting Ben Anderson the Duchy's Head Forrester about installing a new way marker post in Athelstan's Wood he offered to help me install it. This was a good opportunity to get to know him better so I took him up on his offer and we installed the post.
2. As you all know everything is growing extremely vigorously at the moment, I have been out with Paul Savage and cleared LB21 Coniger Lane. Over the last month I have also cut back 8 overgrown stiles. William Heaps and John Rymill have both been out checking paths in Aconbury and Little Birch and trimmed where necessary. LB3 and Ruff Lane are in need of some attention at the moment but I have not been able to do too much in the last week and half as I'm looking after my wife who has recently had her knee replaced.
3. Following our discussion at the last PC meeting I have now put a map of the Parish's footpaths on the notice board. I was surprised to find an old map already there but because the Perspex on the noticeboard is so discoloured, and it has very small print it was very difficult to read. The old map has lots of very interesting local information on it and says this plan is dedicated to Joan Reese 1939 to 2012. This therefore must be of some importance to the parish, if you agree, I would like to use the information on this map to try and produce a leaflet and map for the parish. It's a shame that the PC noticeboard is so discoloured, I'm not sure whose responsibility it is, but I would be happy to fit a new piece of Perspex for the cost of the materials.
4. You may remember me saying last month that the footpath inspector was due to meet the landowner for LB 21 I have not had any report back from her yet so have chased to see what the outcome was.
5. The PROW team have now requested that we put in applications for work to be done with the money that they have available. So I've attached to this report, a list of my 11 priorities within the parish, as you will see some of these are to replace damaged and broken styles some are to replace stiles that no longer exist and others to install finger posts. The application needs to be in by the 1st July so these are my proposals, if you agree, then I will fill in the relevant forms and send them off. I've also got a list of seven different paths in the parish that could be made stile free if the money was available to replace the existing stiles with gates.
6. As the Chair of Aconbury parish meeting, I contacted Elisabeth Taylor to ask if she would write to Ed Bradford to show an expression of interest for some of the PROW money. I have not had a reply from Elisabeth so I have now contacted the PROW team to ask if it's possible for Aconbury to submit a grant request for improvements to their footpaths.
7. Hopefully you've seen the posters telling people about the Parish Walk on the 16th of June it will be led by Andrew Nixon who will share his knowledge of the wildlife, flora and fauna that we see. We will be taking a different route to last year and looking at some of the fields in the local area. The walk will end with tea and cake in the village hall.

Chris Fowler

Little Birch Footpath Officer